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NEWS RELEASE



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**Pilot Station Resident Receives Stiff Sentence
in Bootlegging Case**

(Juneau, AK) - Pilot Station resident Brian Heckman was sentenced to 120 days in jail and fined \$4,000 for attempting to import 30 bottles of whiskey into that dry community.

“We hope that other bootleggers get the message,” said prosecutor Assistant Attorney General Andrea Russell. “With help of federal funds, there are now more troopers to stop the alcohol, and more prosecutors to take bootleggers to court.”

Officer Renee Mackey with the Alaska Alcohol Interdiction Task Force received information about a suspicious package from the air carrier and, with the carrier’s cooperation, discovered that a box shipped by Heckman and labeled “frozen food,” actually contained bottles of whiskey. The plastic bottles had all been “burped” (opened and squeezed to force the air out and resealed), which is a common practice by bootleggers to prevent the tell-tale sloshing sound during transit.

Powell noted, “There is such a high correlation between alcohol and violent crime in rural Alaska, and it’s sad that bootleggers don’t care about the misery caused to others.”

The sentencing took place on November 10. Heckman could serve an additional 420 days in jail and pay additional \$6,000 in fines if he violates probation during the next five years.

To obtain the original charging documents, contact paralegal Cynthia Bradford at 269-6250.

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